

ABSTRACT

A sanitary napkin for placement in a crotch portion of an undergarment
5 of a wearer having a longitudinal axis and being further characterized by having
at least one preferential bending zone extending obliquely in relation to the
longitudinal axis. The preferential bending zone may be created by
mechanically embossing the surface of the sanitary napkin to locally densify the
absorbing materials of the article. The preferential bending zone causes the
10 sanitary napkin to resist lateral compression forces exerted by the thighs of the
wearer and thereby prevents bunching of the article on the undergarment. The
preferential bending zone also enhances fluid distribution by channeling the
fluid away from the point of contact. The advantages of the present invention
are increased efficiency of the sanitary napkin in collecting bodily fluids and
15 greater comfort for the wearer of the napkin, particularly when the napkin is
thin.